

Two-Week Writer's Effect Unit (10 Lessons)

Big Idea

Great writers make deliberate choices. Writer's Effect asks students to explain how those choices influence the reader.

Week 1 – Learning the Skill

Lesson 1 – What is Writer's Effect?

Resources:

- NotebookLM Presentation 1 (to be created)

Teach:

- What Cambridge is asking
- Difference between summary and analysis
- The formula:
 - Evidence
 - Technique
 - Effect
 - Reader response

Short annotation activity.

Lesson 2 – Atmosphere

Story: *Asleep in Armageddon*

- Read the complete story aloud.
- Discuss the ending and themes.
- Begin the scaffolded module.

Homework (optional): Finish reading notes.

Lesson 3 – Guided Analysis

Finish the *Asleep in Armageddon* module.

Teacher models:

Quote → Analysis → Effect

Build one Band 5 paragraph together.

Lesson 4 – Suspense

Story: *The Monkey's Paw*

Read the story.

Students begin the module.

Focus lesson:

How suspense is created through

- pacing
 - foreshadowing
 - setting
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Lesson 5 – Independent Writing

Finish *Monkey's Paw*.

Students now write one paragraph independently.

Teacher circulates and conferences.

Week 2 – Applying the Skill

Lesson 6 – Irony

Story: *The Cask of Amontillado*

Read the story.

Discuss dramatic irony.

Begin module.

Lesson 7 – Timed Analysis

Finish module.

Students complete a **timed Writer's Effect response** (not full assessment).

Peer review.

Lesson 8 – Independent Practice

Choose ONE:

- *Zero Hour*
- *Tell-Tale Heart*

Students complete the scaffold with minimal teacher support.

This is where you see whether they're becoming independent.

Lesson 9 – Review & Exam Strategy

NotebookLM Presentation 2 (to be created)

Topics:

- Common mistakes
- Weak vs. strong analysis
- Avoid feature spotting
- Building a Band 6 paragraph

Use examples from the stories they've studied.

Lesson 10 – Assessment

Authentic Cambridge Writer's Effect assessment.

What happens to the fifth module?

It becomes:

- extension work
- homework
- revision
- early finisher activity
- review before mocks

Every good unit should have one lesson "in reserve."

The two PPTX presentations

Presentation 1

The Anatomy of Writer's Effect

- What examiners want
 - Evidence vs. explanation
 - Reader effect
 - Language
 - Structure
 - Imagery
 - Tone
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Presentation 2

Mastering Writer's Effect

Bring everything together.

Use examples from:

- Bradbury
- Poe
- Jacobs

Compare techniques.

This is organized around **the writing skill**.

Lesson	Skill	Story
1	Understanding Writer's Effect	Introduction
2–3	Atmosphere	<i>Asleep in Armageddon</i>
4–5	Suspense	<i>The Monkey's Paw</i>
6–7	Irony	<i>The Cask of Amontillado</i>
8	Independent Analysis	<i>Zero Hour</i> or <i>Tell-Tale Heart</i>
9	Review	Multiple texts
10	Assessment	New extract

That way, students don't feel like they're doing "another story." They feel like each lesson adds a new analytical tool to their repertoire.

It also adds a literacy component with the opportunity to read excellent literature in its entirety before examining the extract analytically.